

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
Post Office Box 082
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0082
(609) 292-1892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION CASE NO. 36-15B

IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTINE ECKEL
Investment Technician
Department of the Treasury

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission ("Commission") is authorized to initiate, receive, investigate, review and hear complaints regarding violations of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.* ("Conflicts Law"), applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C. 19:61-1.1 et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code, and any agency code of ethics, by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee; and

WHEREAS, this matter was brought before the Commission by a complaint filed with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an investigation of all matters and issues raised by the complaint; and

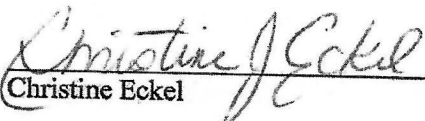
WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation; the Commission and Christine Eckel ("Eckel") desire to enter into a final and complete resolution of all the matters and issues raised thereby;

IT IS THEREFORE agreed by the parties as follows:

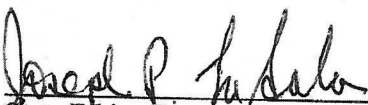
1. Eckel has been employed by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury ("Treasury"), since 1989.
2. As an employee of Treasury, Eckel is a State employee bound by the Conflicts Law, the applicable Commission rules and the Uniform Ethics Code.
3. Over an extended period of time, Eckel frequently communicated with one of her co-workers through phone calls, text messages, and emails using her State email account.
 - a. Between April 30, 2012 and December 8, 2014, Eckel had called or texted her co-worker's State-issued mobile phone 3,480 times.
 - b. Eckel and her co-worker's email records show that, from April 28, 2010 to August 24, 2015, on over one hundred days they exchanged ten (10) or more emails per day.
 - c. Most of these communications occurred during State work time.
 - d. Eckel did directly not work with this co-worker and there was no legitimate business reason for her excessive communications with her co-worker.
4. It is the Commission's position that Eckel violated sections 23 (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law by using State time and resources, including her State email account and computer, to communicate with her co-worker on personal matters.
5. Eckel acknowledges that her excessive use of State resources to communicate with her co-worker created the impression that she engaged in conduct violative of the public trust, in violation of section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts Law.
6. In consideration of the above, Eckel agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) payable in eight monthly installments of \$100.00 each via personal

check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey Treasurer. Payments are due by the first of the month, commencing the month following the full execution of this consent order.

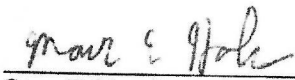
7. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues that are involved herein.


Christine Eckel

Dated: 04/05/2019


State Ethics Commission
By: Joseph P. LaSala, Chair

Dated: 6/5/2019


State Ethics Commission
By: Mark T. Holmes, Executive Director

Dated: 6/6/19